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**Patent claims:**

1. A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, in which from  
5 0.5 to 5 U of an ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF), which has previously been incubated with urea, is/are added, per ml, to the test medium and, after incubation with the test medium, the ADAMTS-13 activity is determined by way of the reduction in the  
10 VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets.
2. A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, in which platelets are added to ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand  
15 factor (VWF), with the platelets aggregating and the test medium then being added to this mixture and the ADAMTS-13 activity being determined by way of the dissociation of the platelet aggregates.
- 20 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the method is carried out in the presence of ristocetin.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the  
25 reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.
- 30 5. The method as claimed in claim 2, in which the dissociation of the platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has

been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.

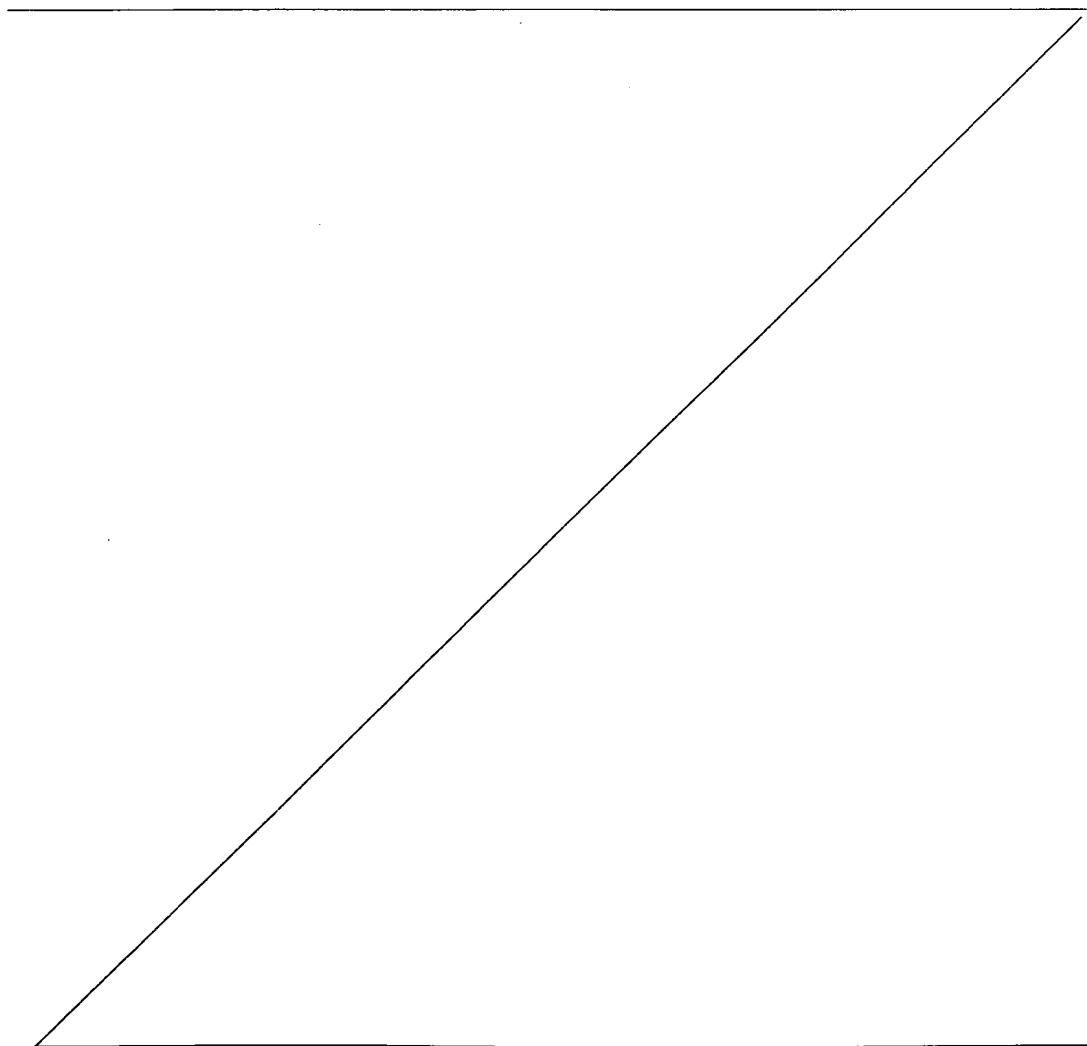
- 5 6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a serine protease inhibitor is used.

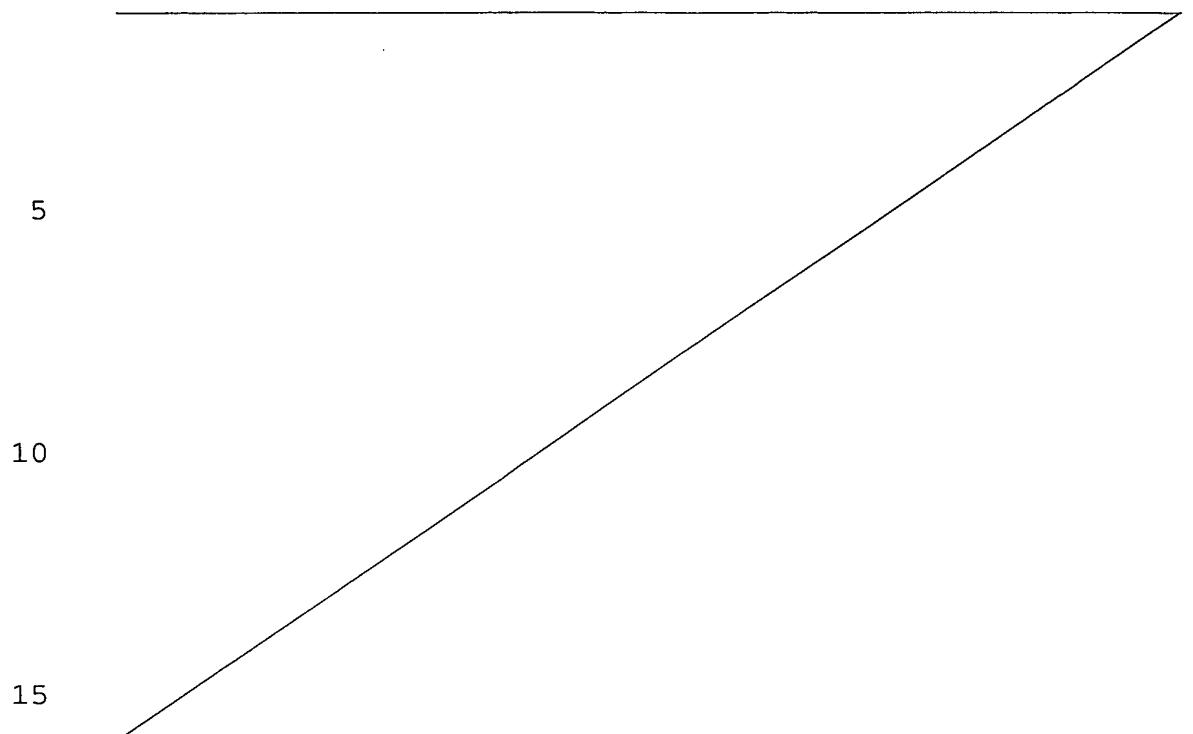
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17. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cell extract.
18. A diagnostic kit, containing an ADAMTS-13-free VWF and platelets, as well as urea for pretreating the ADAMTS-13-free VWF.
19. The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that the ADAMTS-13-free VWF and the urea are present in one container.
20. The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 18 or 19, characterized in that it additionally contains ristocetin.